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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ALUMNI HOUSE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Eastern Illinois University Alumni Association has accepted a challenge from a local charitable organization to raise \$35,000 in matching funds in order to purchase a house for its membership.

The Charleston Area Charitable Foundation has agreed to grant the Association \$35,000 to purchase and improve a house located at 1544 Fourth Street, if the Association raises a like amount from its membership in one year.

The Association will have until Fall 1989 to raise these matching funds in the form of cash, pledges and in-kind gifts.

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The Charleston Area Charitable Foundation was created by the estates of the Linder family which was long associated with Eastern. Lewis Linder was a 1911 graduate and Mary, his sister, completed her degree in 1915. Lewis served Eastern in various capacities on its Alumni and Foundation boards. Both were charter members of the EIU Foundation.

The creation of an alumni house will enable Eastern to better serve its graduates, EIU President Stan Rives said. "Eastern's 41,000-plus alumni are now all members of the Alumni Association. We plan to expand our contacts with all alums," Rives said.

"The Alumni House will become a symbol of membership in the Alumni Association and of Eastern to the individual alumnus," added Dr. Daniel E. Thornburgh, Director of University Relations and Acting Director of Alumni Services. "The House will be a central place to which alumni return."

"It will be a place where personnel are to help our 40,000 alums with problems. Eventually, I would like to see the house as a place to which all alumni can turn for assistance," he said.

The need for an alumni house has arisen from a change in the structure of the Association, Thornburgh indicated. "The EIU Alumni Association has changed dramatically. Its membership is now composed of all graduates and former students of EIU. It is also important that the Association repositions itself according to its new structure in order to support the University's commitment of endowing excellence through fundraising," he said.

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ALUMNI HOUSE

The Association's first effort in the matching fund campaign has been the creation of an Alumni House Fund Drive Committee. Committee members include Thornburgh and Alumni Association President Tom Gaffigan, alumni Kenneth Hesler and Robert Kovac, faculty member John North, and emeritus faculty member Dr. James Giffin.